

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/N:JBLAKE:RJP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249602

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, LY, PFOR

SUBJECT: C-130 AIRCRAFT FOR LIBYA: US-LIBYA RELATIONS

REFERENCE: TRIPOLI 1520

1. LIBYAN CHARGE ZEGHAR CALLED ON DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 21 TO ENQUIRE RE STATUS LOCKHEED EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TWO C-130'S AND TO ASK WHETHER ANYTHING MIGHT BE DONE TO EXPEDITE FAVORABLE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION. DEPTOFF (BLAKE) INFORMED ZEGHAR APPLICATIONS WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT NO REPEAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THEM. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY AS TO WHEN DECISION MIGHT BE EXPECTED, BLAKE INDICATED HE COULD NOT SAY. WHEN ZEGHAR ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING HE OR LARG MIGHT DO TO FACILITATE CONSIDERATION OF MATTER, DEPTOFF RECALLED NOTIFICATION TO LARG IN MAY 1972 THAT FINAL DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON BASIS OF "ALL RELEVANT FACTORS" AT THE TIME. IN RESPONSE TO ZEGHAR'S QUERY AS TO STATUS OF LICENSE APPLI-
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CATIONS FOR EXPORT OF SPARE PARTS FOR C-130'S, DEPTOFF SAID

HE WOULD ENQUIRE RE SITUATION.

2. ZEGHAR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DELAYS IN DECISIONS ON FOREGOING APPLICATIONS. DEPTOFF RESPONDED AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI HAD LONG LIST OF MATTERS IT HAD RAISED WITH LARG OVER PAST FOUR YEARS TO WHICH ONLY RESPONSE HAD BEEN EITHER SILENCE OR NO ACTION. PARENTHETICALLY, DEPTOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WITH ARRIVAL OF NEW CHARGE IN TRIPOLI PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE IN EXPEDITING ACTION ON SOME OF THESE PRO-BLAMES, E.G. COMPENSATION FOR 1969 BALFOUR DAY DAMAGE TO CHANCERY IN TRIPOLI.

3. BLAKE EXPRESSED HOPE CONSISTENT WITH USG DESIRE TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH ALL REGIMES THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE IN REESTABLISHING DIALOGUE WITH LARG WHICH HAD VIRTUALLY "EVAPORATED" SINCE ESTABLISHMENT NEW GOVERNMENT IN 1969. BLAKE DREW ATTENTION TO FACT THAT SECRETARY HAD RECENTLY VISITED BOTH ALGIERS AND DAMASCUS IN HIS QUEST FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST DESPITE FACT US HAS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NEITHER CAPITAL. ZEGHAR SUDDENLY ASKED WHETHER SECRETARY WOULD HAVE GONE TO LIBYA. BLAKE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR SECRETARY BUT NOTED THAT LARG HAD NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATED ANY DESIRE TO RECEIVE HIM. ZEGHAR THEN SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, THAT HE THOUGHT LARG WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE SECRETARY, TO WHICH BLAKE ANSWERED USG WOULD ALWAYS WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS.

4. COMMENT: ZEGHAR'S DEMARCHE RE C-130'S AND SPARE PARTS WAS OBVIOUSLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM LARG SINCE HE HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY APPROACHED DEPARTMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS ABOVE DESK OFFICER LEVEL. HIS COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE RECEPTIVENESS OF LARG TO CONTACT BY SECRETARY WAS SAID WITH FEELING BUT DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT THEY WERE PURELY PERSONAL. RUSH

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